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COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1958.



COUNCIL OFFICES,  
RECTORY ROAD,  
LOWESTOFT,  
SUFFOLK.



LOTHINGLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1958

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A.C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
PUBLIC CLEANSING OFFICER  
and PETROLEUM OFFICER

R. GROAT, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR and PETROLEUM  
OFFICER

G.A. BOANAS, M.A.P.H.I.  
Resigned 31st March, 1958.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR

A.E. HOLDSWORTH, M.A.P.H.I.  
Commenced duty 29th July, 1958.

Council Offices,  
Rectory Road,  
LOWESTOFT,  
Suffolk.



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Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1958.

A small rise in the number of births was recorded for the year under review, though generally speaking the birth rate remains at much the same level as for previous years. The rate is slightly below the average for England and Wales.

The death rate this year, is considerably below that for previous years and is well below the average for England and Wales. The causes of death show the same characteristics as usual; diseases of the heart and its associated systems being the main cause of death.

There were no deaths from road accidents recorded. On the other hand, deaths from "other accidents" show quite a sharp rise this year. Details of these are shown elsewhere in the report.

Attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres have been well maintained, all the centres in the district showing a good level of activity for their respective areas. Due to the demand, a doctor now visits Corton Infant Welfare Centre monthly instead of three monthly, as before, and at Blundeston the doctor now visits monthly instead of bi-monthly. Polio injections were made available at the Infant Welfare Centres for the first time during the year, thus saving travelling to Lowestoft.

1958 will be remembered primarily as being the year in which anti-polio vaccine became readily available. A very great deal of time was spent by the department in organising the schemes for immunisation, to cover the various age groups as each became entitled to these injections. It is not possible to give separate statistics for the district, as this service is primarily a County one, but from general impressions, one would say that the response to the scheme has been good.

There are one or two matters concerning the Public Health Inspector's Report to which I would like to draw attention. The most important of these is that of the unsatisfactory standard of some of the caravans let in the district for holiday use. There are some unscrupulous caravan owners who make a practise of letting their caravans to families too large to comfortably occupy them. The unsuspecting holiday maker naturally expects a square deal when he books his holiday accommodation and if he is inexperienced in caravaning matters, may easily be deceived into thinking he has booked far more spacious living room than turns out to be the case. Again he naturally expects that the caravan he has hired will be cleaned and fresh linen put in before he takes it over from its previous tenant. Far too many complaints have been reaching this office of instances where these considerations are being neglected. The great majority of caravan sites are blameless in this respect. It is the private owner, often living out of the district, with one or two vans only, who is to blame. Not only does he let himself down in the long run, but he is also giving caravaning a bad name; a feature of this practice much resented by the larger operators who run their affairs properly. It is very difficult to know how to stop this

practice....

practice, as it is manifestly impossible to inspect every caravan in the district. Where complaints are made, however, and are found to be justified, one feels the most severe of remedies should be applied.

Your Medical Officer was much honoured in the early part of the year by being asked by the National Caravan Council to be a guest speaker at their Annual Rally at Harrogate. This occasion gave one the opportunity to meet many prominent commercial caravan personalities, and one soon came to the conclusion that the Caravan Council are as concerned with this aspect of their trade as are public health officials. Until more strict legislation is introduced and provision made for enforcing it, the best one can do is to appeal to the private caravan owner to "play the game" and not let his own side down.

As will be recalled, Mr. Boanas, Additional Public Health Inspector, left the Authority's service early in the year and it was some four months or so before a replacement for him was obtained. This put a heavy burden on Mr. Groat's shoulders and it was not possible, therefore, to do as much inspection of holiday camps, etc. last year as one would have wished. Of the camps inspected, all were found to be of reasonably good hygienic standard. At two of the camps, incidents occurred which, but for the vigilance of the Health Department, might have lead to serious outbreaks of food poisoning.

At one, a small outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting occurred which was reported to the department and promptly investigated. It was found that a cook was suffering from infection with a staphylococcus organism and her immediate suspension from duty brought the outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting to an end before it had had time to get a firm hold on the camp.

At the other, a member of the administrative staff was taken ill following a holiday overseas. He was discovered to have an infection with salmonella typhimurium, an organism responsible for many outbreaks of food poisoning. He was given very strict instructions about his personal hygiene, and routine bacteriological testing carried out on him throughout the season, and in this way we were successful in confining the infection so that no one else became involved.

Returning to the district generally, it is noted that no Council house building took place during the year. There were no doubt good reasons for this, but it must not be forgotten that the need for such construction still remains. There are for instance, nineteen dwellings due for demolition, besides the requirements of those in better, but still bad, housing accommodation.

Mr. A.E. Holdsworth, joined the department at the end of July. In welcoming him, we wish him a happy period of service in this district.

May I conclude by thanking you Mr. Chairman, and the members of your Committee for your interest and support during the year.

I am, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births:</u>	Legitimate	94	114	208
	Illegitimate	7	9	16
		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
		101	123	224
		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

Comparative figure  
for England & Wales.

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated  
resident population 14.3 (Crude)  
16.1 (Adjusted) 16.4

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Stillbirths:</u>	Legitimate	2	1	3
	Illegitimate	1	—	1
		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
		3	1	4
		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

Comparative figure  
for England & Wales

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated  
resident population 9.4 (Crude)  
8.5 (Adjusted) 11.7

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Deaths of Infants under</u> <u>1 year of age</u>	Legitimate	2	4	6
	Illegitimate	—	—	—
		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
		2	4	6
		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

Deaths of Infants under  
4 weeks of age

Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	2	4	6

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 44,653 acres

Registrar-General's estimated population (mid 1958). 15,550

Number of inhabited houses as at 31st December, 1958. 5,567

Rateable value as at 31st December, 1958 ... £131,578

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung & bronchus	7	1	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	8	16
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	2
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	7	21
Coronary disease, angina	12	8	20
Hypertension with heart disease	5	2	7
Other heart disease	7	11	18
Other circulatory disease	3	8	11
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	1	4	5
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	-	1
Nephritis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Congenital malformations	-	2	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	7	7	14
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	4	6	10
	—	—	—
	76	71	147
	—	—	—

Other Accidents:

A male, aged 43 years of Belton.

Cause: Asphyxia caused by mechanical compression of the chest as a result of his being buried in a fall of sand while working in a sand pit.

A boy, aged 14 years of Ashby.

Cause: Asphyxia by drowning as a result of his having fallen into Fritton Lake, Ashby.

A female, aged 81 years of Carlton Colville.

Cause: Cardiovascular degeneration and cerebral thrombosis accelerated by the effects of a fracture of femur caused by a fall and the consequent operation.

A female, aged 88 years of Kessingland.

Cause: Broncho-pneumonia due to the effects of a fracture of the thigh caused by a fall.

A male, aged 42 years of Wrentham.

Cause: Laceration of brain and fracture of skull due to blow upon back of head caused by him having fallen from a ladder.

A female, aged 83 years of Corton.

Cause: Broncho-pneumonia accelerated by fracture of the left humerus and the neck of the left femur (Fall at home).

Other Accidents: (Contd.)

A male, aged 49 years of Burgh Castle.

Cause: Multiple fractures of the ribs and perforation of the lungs caused by being accidentally crushed by a pile frame which had slipped and overbalanced while being erected.

A female, aged 89 years of Kessingland.

Cause: Senility probably accelerated by the effects of a fracture of the femur caused by an accidental fall at her home.

A female, aged 74 years of Kessingland.

Cause: Massive pulmonary embolism consequent on an operation necessitated by a fracture of her thigh as a result of her having fallen at her home.

A female, aged 18 years of Uggeshall.

Cause: Sub dural haemorrhage due to rupture of the mid meningeal artery due to fracture of the skull caused by her having fallen off her bicycle on the Uggeshall - Wangford Road, Uggeshall.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

The following shows the number of attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres throughout the year:

<u>Welfare Centres</u>	<u>First Attendances.</u>	<u>Subsequent Attendances</u>	<u>Total Attendances</u>
<u>Carlton Colville.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	24	157	181
1 - 5 Years	72	161	233
<u>Kessingland.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	40	236	276
1 - 5 Years	37	172	209
<u>Wrentham.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	45	190	235
1 - 5 Years	21	213	234
<u>Corton.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	6	25	31
1 - 5 Years	15	93	108
<u>Blundeston.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	19	60	79
1 - 5 Years	31	190	221

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES. (Contd.)

<u>Welfare Centres</u>	<u>First Attendances.</u>	<u>Subsequent Attendances.</u>	<u>Total Attendances</u>
<u>Belton.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	20	52	72
1 - 5 Years	20	79	99
<u>Bradwell.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	35	82	117
1 - 5 Years	21	48	69
<u>Hopton.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	18	52	70
1 - 5 Years	22	82	104
<u>Lound.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	9	30	39
1 - 5 Years	2	95	97
<u>Somerleyton.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	15	23	38
1 - 5 Years	19	43	62
<u>Reydon.</u>			
0 - 1 Year	38	134	172
1 - 5 Years	28	173	201

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

In the Lothingland district in 1958, 145 primary immunisations were carried out by the child welfare clinics and general practitioners. The age groups of the children immunised are as follows:-

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>Total</u>
103	23	19	145

Also 127 booster doses were given to children between the ages of 5 - 14.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

Once again, the greatest amount of help was given to old people. The total figures for help given to all cases are much the same as in previous years. Difficulties are experienced from time to time in providing all the help asked for, due to shortage of home helps. This is particularly so in the Bradwell area at all times and also in those areas adjoining holiday camps, etc., during the summer season.

Maternity Cases.

T.B. & Sick.

Old People.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence of Infectious Diseases throughout the year in the various parishes:

P A R I S H	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Infective Hepatitis	Dysentery
Ashby	1					
Barnby	3					
Belton	1					
Blundeston	3					
Bradwell	3					
Carlton Colville	87	7				
Corton	10					
Covehithe	1					
Frostenden	1					
Gisleham	3					
Gunton	1					
Henham	2					
Hopton	2					
Hulver	1					
Kessingland	2					
Lound	2					
Mutford	10	1				
Oulton	3	1				
Reydon	69	36				
Somerleyton	1	1				
1958	201	46	5	9	3	1
1957	315	19	1	17	1	1
1956	8	5	22	15	1	2

Both measles and whooping cough showed higher incidences during the year under review than for some years, the parish of Reydon being particularly heavily involved in the epidemic of whooping cough, which as a matter of interest, also involved the Borough of Southwold. Apart from Reydon, however, whooping cough was almost absent from the other parishes.

Measles was fairly widely spread, and also was more prevalent than for the past few years. Again Reydon suffered heavily - as did Southwold - but Carlton Colville and Corton were also heavily involved.

<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>	<u>MALES</u>		<u>FEMALES</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>	
Number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1957	39	10	28	10	87
Number of cases added during the year	5	-	1	-	6
Number of cases removed during the year	3	1	5	-	9
Number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1958	41	9	24	10	84

<u>Cases Added to the Register</u>		<u>Cases Removed from the Register</u>	
New notifications	= 4	Recovered	= 3
Inward Transfers	= 2	Died	= 1
	—	Removed to other areas	= 5
<u>Total</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>9</u>

Cases on the Register, according to age and sex at 31st December, 1958.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 5 years	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	3	5	8
15 - 24 years	9	6	15
25 - 44 years	16	14	30
45 - 64 years	15	7	22
65 years and over	7	1	8
Age unknown	-	1	1
	—	—	—
	50	34	84
	—	—	—

MIDWIFERY - HOME NURSING.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following statistics relating to midwifery and home nursing in the district.

Midwifery.

Total number of confinements attended..... 103  
 Total number of visits to midwifery and maternity cases.. 2675

Home Nursing.

Total number of cases attended during the year..... 256  
 Total number of visits made to all cases..... 4935

These statistics show a small increase in midwifery compared with the previous year. Once again, nearly half the home nursing has been in relation to patients over the age of 65 years.

REPORT of the PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the YEAR 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report upon the work of the Department in 1958. The change in staff resulted in a period of four months with no Additional Public Health Inspector and this, coupled with lack of clerical assistance, caused difficulty in carrying out the normal duties of the office. This difficulty was aggravated by a series of public cleansing vehicle breakdowns in the early part of the year which disorganised the work and gave rise to nuisances particularly from cesspools overflowing. It was therefore necessary to give greater supervision to the public cleansing services. In these circumstances although meat inspection was almost completely carried out by working overtime, it was not possible to follow up reports on housing conditions and food preparing premises received less attention than is necessary during the year.

HOUSING.

Provision of New Accommodation.

Houses erected by private enterprise	65
Houses erected by the Local Authority	-

Housing Act 1949 Part II.

Improvements: Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grant were approved by the Council

(1) Private enterprise	25
(2) Local Authority	7

Inspections were made of 222 houses and the following is the result of recommendations made and action taken in respect of this property:

Number of House demolished and unfit houses closed	12
Number of houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	39
Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
Public Health Act 1936	8
Housing Act 1957	1

Rent Act 1957.

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	6
Number of Certificates issued	3
Number of undertakings given by Landlords to carry out repairs	2
Number of Certificates cancelled	2

## HOUSING. (Contd.)

The general standard of housing accommodation is good and improvements in facilities continue to be made. One objective in this section of the work is to obtain for every dwelling a supply of wholesome water and the provision of satisfactory drainage including a sink in each house, and much remains to be done in this respect. There are no known overcrowding problems but it is recorded that 19 families were still living in houses unfit for habitation and the subject of demolition or closing orders.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There was again an increase in the number of holiday caravans and 29 sites were licensed under Section 269 Public Health Act 1936 for 1173 moveable dwellings. Informal action was taken regarding the use of land by visitors with caravans and tents where no water supply or sanitary facilities were available and this type of uncontrolled camping appears to be growing in the peak holiday period. 97 visits were made to caravan and camping sites.

The majority of sites are well organised, provided with a high standard of sanitary facilities and the caravans are properly maintained and adequate for the needs of the visitors. Other sites have not the same supervision and complaints regarding conditions show that there is not in some cases even a programme of cleaning carried out between changes of occupation.

There has been established in this district a large caravan holiday industry catering for some 5,000 persons. The present legislation does not control the type of caravan, its size, layout or the number of persons who can reasonably occupy the same. At a time when public attention is being drawn to the need for higher standards of housing accommodation an increasing number of people are taking holidays in caravans in which the interior space and the layout are far below those standards permitted in permanent living accommodation.

There are caravans let for four persons with an interior space of only 75 sq. ft. in which area food is stored and prepared, washing facilities are provided together with dining and sleeping accommodation.

It is considered that standards should be drawn up for controlling the construction of new caravans, including the layout of facilities, and for limiting the number of persons permitted to occupy the different sizes of caravan which are offered for hire.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

Samples of water from domestic supplies were submitted to Dr. L.M. Dowsett, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Norwich and the reports were as follows:

	<u>Mains supply</u>	<u>Private wells</u>
Highly satisfactory	15	3
Satisfactory	-	11
Suspicious	-	2
Unsatisfactory	1	7

WATER SUPPLIES. (Contd.)

41 samples of well water for examination for nitrate content were taken and Dr. E.C. Wood, Public Analyst, reported on the suitability of these waters for use for infant feeding.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES and KNACKERS YARD.

Visits to slaughterhouses numbered 804 and included inspections made in the evenings and during public holidays and weekends.

Diseased and unsound meat and offals were collected by the Suffolk Fat and Bone Company and processed on arrival at the factory at Oulton. The incidence of tuberculosis in cattle killed was very low and reflects the great progress made in the plan for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis by the extension of the Attested Herds Scheme.

The total weight of meat and offal condemned amounted to 2 tons. 15 cwt. 15 lbs.

Seven private slaughterhouses were licensed and the following details are given of carcasses and offals inspected in these premises:

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number of animals inspected	1054	18	26	347	4700

Diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cycticerci

Number of whole carcasses condemned	1	-	4	1	4
-------------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---

Number of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	159	4	-	4	149
---	-----	---	---	---	-----

Tuberculosis only.

Number of whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	1
-------------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---

Number of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	25	4	-	-	121
---	----	---	---	---	-----

Cysticercosis

Number of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	1	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	---

Number of carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	---

One knackers yard was licensed and the following animals were dealt with:

Cattle	114	
Horses	14	
Pigs	48	
Calves	178	
Sheep	30	
		<u>Total: 384</u>

FOOD PREMISES.

Inspections	121
<u>Registered premises</u>	
Ice Cream manufacturers	1
Ice Cream retailers	58
Sausage and preserved food manufacturers	9
<u>Licensed Milk Dealers</u>	
Pasteurised milk	17
Sterilised milk	18

It was found necessary to take proceedings against the owner of a food business for failing to provide a wash hand basin and adequate hot and cold water for the use of persons engaged in the handling of food on the premises. He was fined £15.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The cost of providing the refuse collection and cesspool emptying services amounted to £10,116. 4s. 2d. compared with £9558 in the previous financial year.

Refuse Collection: The following vehicles were used:

	Year	Engine	
10 cub. yd. refuse collector	1949	Petrol	Replaced in May 1958 by 25 cub. yd. vehicle.
18 cub. yd. "	1956	Diesel	
25 cub. yd. "	1958	Diesel	

There was again an increase in the number of houses and also in the number of caravan and holiday camps requiring the service. In the period June to September the number of visitors staying in the district is at least 10,000 and in the peak holiday weeks of August the normal population is probably doubled. The times of collection remained unchanged, being carried out weekly in six parishes and fortnightly in the remainder of the district. The camps were given where necessary a twice weekly collection. All refuse was disposed of by tipping either on land in the district or by arrangement on the tips of the Lowestoft Borough Council.

Nightsoil Collection: A weekly service was given to property in Kessingland and the London Road, Gisleham. A survey showed that 150 conversions had already been made following informal action and 133 dwellings were still lacking a water closet. The Council approved the discontinuation of the service following notification to the owners and occupiers of these dwellings.

Cesspool Emptying: The following vehicles were used:

	Year	Engine
750 gall. cesspool emptier	1947	Petrol
1000 gall. "	1950	Diesel
1000 gall. "	1953	Diesel

PUBLIC CLEANSING. (Contd.)

Due to the number of complaints made in spite of the overtime worked it was found necessary to direct the day to day running of the services from the office. This together with a change of foreman and other staff engaged on the work, made it possible by the end of the year to carry out the work satisfactorily and in normal hours.

PETROLEUM ACT and REGULATIONS.

62 premises were licensed to store petroleum spirit and these were inspected by officers of the Suffolk and Ipswich Fire Service. It was found that generally the fire precautions were not up to the standard required by the terms of the Licences issued and that 50 storage tanks had no record of testing. The attention of all licence holders had already been drawn to the need to comply with the conditions recommended by the Home Office in order to ensure the safe keeping of petroleum spirit and to prevent loss or damage to life or property. Detailed recommendations were given to each licensee and the necessary works have been almost completed.

RODENT CONTROL.

The following is a record of inspections made for infestations and of treatments carried out:

	<u>Dwelling houses</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Other premises.</u>
Inspections	2572	113	181
Treatments	801	53	75

The work at dwelling houses was carried out with no charge and the sum received for treatments at farms and other premises amounted to £378. 5s. 3d. One rodent operative was employed and the work was carried out in a satisfactory manner.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RALPH GROAT.

Public Health Inspector.





